

- 7 c. thereafter, manually moving the actuator to deploy the anchor members
8 outwardly from the elongate tube through the apertures, thereby forcing the
9 anchor members into the tissue mass;
10 d. thereafter, stabilizing the tissue mass with the tissue anchor while cutting the
11 tissue; and
12 e. removing the tissue mass.

1 94. (New) A method according to claim 92, wherein stabilizing the tissue mass includes
2 drawing the tissue anchor proximally, thereby tensioning the tissue mass.

3 95. (New) A method according to claim 92, further comprising leaning the elongate tube
4 and the elongate rod after the anchor members are deployed in the tissue mass to
5 facilitate surgical removal of the tissue mass.

6 96. (New) A method of stabilizing a tissue mass during a medical procedure using a
7 tissue anchor which includes an elongate tube having a distal end and a plurality of
8 apertures; a manually controllable actuator; and a plurality of anchor members
9 operatively connected to the actuator, the method comprising:

- 10 a. grasping the elongate tube of the tissue anchor and advancing the distal end
11 of the elongate tube into the tissue mass to a desired location;
12 b. thereafter, manually moving the actuator to deploy the anchor members
outwardly from the elongate tube through the apertures, with one anchor
member advancing through each aperture such that the anchor members
curve outwardly from the apertures, thereby extending the anchor members
into the tissue mass;
c. thereafter, manually grasping the tissue anchor to stabilize the tissue mass.

97. (New) A method according to claim 95, further comprising drawing the tissue anchor
proximally after deploying the anchor members, thereby tensioning the tissue mass.

REMARKS

In the parent application, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement on 14
September 1999, requiring restriction between three separate inventions. Claims 32-36

were identified as defining an independent and distinct invention relating to a "tissue anchor, classified in class 606, subclass 167." A preliminary amendment filed 28 February 2000 cancelled claims 32-36, among others, from the parent application. The present application cancels all of the original claims except claims 32-36 and adds new claims 65 - 97.

All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 32-36 and 65-97, are in condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, requests prompt examination of the application and an allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Mr. Hotchkiss by telephone at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP



Paul T. Parker
Registration No. 38,264

Enclosure:
Postcard

PERKINS COIE LLP
P. O. Box 1247
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247
(206) 583-8888
FAX: (206) 583-8500